

**IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A gaming machine comprising:  
variable display means for variably displaying designs in a plurality of rows and emitting light; and  
front display means disposed in front of the variable display means, said front display means including a liquid crystal display panel having transparent areas that ensure the visibility of the variable display means, wherein said liquid crystal display panel displays images other than said designs in a display area other than said transparent areas, and a light guiding plate that guides light emitted from a light source across a surface of said liquid crystal display panel; wherein the light guiding plate includes transparent areas that ensure the visibility of the variable display of said variable display means are individually formed corresponding to said plurality of rows, a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal display panel and the variable display means and having a plurality of openings formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate, wherein light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the light emitted from the variable display means illuminates a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings of the light guiding plate.
2. (ORIGINAL) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein said variable display means is comprised of one or more rotatable reels each having a reel band thereon, on which said designs are drawn.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein said gaming machine is a slot machine.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device that variably displays designs in a plurality of rows and emits light; and

a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, said front display device includes a transparent liquid crystal display panel having at least a first transparent area that ensures the visibility of the variable display device, wherein said liquid crystal display panel displays images other than said designs in a display area other than said first transparent area, at least one light source for emitting light to said transparent liquid crystal display panel, and a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from said light source across a surface of said liquid crystal display panel; wherein the light guiding plate has at least one second transparent area that ensures the visibility of the variable display of said variable display device are formed corresponding to said first transparent area, a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device and having a plurality of openings formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate, wherein light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the designs of the variable display device illuminate a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings of the light guiding plate.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein said variable display device is comprised of one or more rotatable reels each having a reel band thereon, on which said designs are drawn.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein said gaming machine is a slot machine.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising:

a transparent antistatic sheet disposed on the rear side of said light guiding plate.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising:

a reflection plate disposed between said variable display device and said light guiding plate, for reflecting a light emitted from said light source on said light guiding plate, to said liquid crystal display panel; ~~wherein the reflection plate has at least one third transparent area which ensure the visibility of the variable display of said variable display device, corresponding to said first transparent area and second transparent area.~~

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising:

at least one other light source disposed at a side of said reflection plate that opposes the variable display device.